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Newspapers

Recover 20 Bodies From Ohio Mine

Four Taken Out Last Night And 51 Remain; Investigate Disaster

NEFFS, O., March 20 (U.P.)—Offisials of the Hanna Coal Company prepared today to cooperate with a Congressional group which will investigate an explosion last Saturday that apparently took the lives of 71 miners in the Willow Grove mine.

A total of 20 bodies had been recovered from the mine today and all but one had been identified.

Rep. Fred M. Bradley, D., Michigan, a member of the House Mines and Mining Committee, said before leaving Washington to go to the mine:

"I'm going to find out what happened. The Neely bill providing for Federal Safety Inspectors, which has been approved by the Senate, it pending before our committee. I want to determine whether the inspectors provided in that bill could reasonably have been expected to prevent that accident."

Four bodies taken from the mine last night were identified as those of Joseph Kresach, 45, Fairpoint constable and miner; Andrew Valocik, 31, Neffs; Andrew Hobart, 41, Midway, and Andrew Rudol, 34, Neffs. Another body brought out at sunrise today had not been identified.

George A. Strain, state industrial relations director, said today that he had inspected the mine with R. V. Clay, Willow Grove general manager, and Nelson Hovey, assistant to Strain.

"It will be days before the work is completed because of the devastating effects of the blast on rooms entries and the general interior of that section of the mine.

"There are thousands of tons of rock to be removed which is preventing rapid progress. Everyone is doing everything possible to expedite the work. Men have been working in six-hour shifts, 24 hours a day. There has been complete and effective cooperation with our department by the Federal Bureau of Mines, West Virginia Department of Mines, the miners and company officials."

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